REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended to correct a clerical error and a new Abstract is submitted on a separate attached sheet. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 12 and respectfully submit that this claim conforms to the formal requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Anno et al. (EP 0660558 A2). Claims 5-6, 8-11, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Anno et al. in view of Bach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,475,686). Claims 7 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 103 (a) over Anno et al. in view of Kuroda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,800). Applicants traverse each of these rejections because none of the references, whether considered individually or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features in the rejected claims.

To establish the *prima facie* case of obviousness, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill on the art, to modify the reference(s) or to combine reference teachings.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references fails to recite or teach all of the claimed limitations in pending claims 1-18. In particular, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest grouping bits to be transmitted in blocks having the minimum size of 288 bits, as recited in independent claim 1 (and its various dependent claims) of the instant application. Further, the combination of references fails to teach or

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suggest grouping bits to be transmitted into blocks having the size of 290 bits, as recited in

independent claim 3 (and its various dependent claims) of the instant application.

Anno et al. discusses an interleaving method and apparatus for digital data

transmission in GSM networks. The interleaving method and apparatus taught by Anno et al.

is used to process FACCH channels in such a way that the memory use is as efficient as

possible. Therefore, in contrast to the claimed invention, Anno et al. does not relate to a data

transmission method comprising channel coding, the channel coding comprising grouping

bits into blocks, carrying out convolutional coding on the blocks with a ½ code rate and

puncturing the coded bits by deleting bits from each block.

Further, Bach et al. and Kuroda et al. fail to resolve these deficiencies of Anno et al.

related to the instant invention because neither Bach et al. nor Kuroda et al. teach or suggest

anything about grouping bits to be transmitted in blocks having the minimum size of 288 bits,

as recited in independent claim 1 (and its various dependent claims) or grouping bits to be ·

transmitted into blocks having the size of 290 bits, as recited in independent claim 3 (and its

various dependent claims).

In view of the above arguments, the claimed invention would not have been rendered

obvious by the combination of the above-cited references to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention. Thus, claims 1-18 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being

patentable over Anno et al. in view of Bach et al. and Kuroda et al.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a reference or

references that show what the Examiner considers as "well known" in the Office Action (see

page 5 of the Office Action) so that the Applicants can assess the teachings of such

references, if any, and determine whether they are combinable with Anno et al., Bach et al.,

and Kuroda et al. See MPEP 2143.03

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that the claims are in

condition for allowance. Timely notice to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.
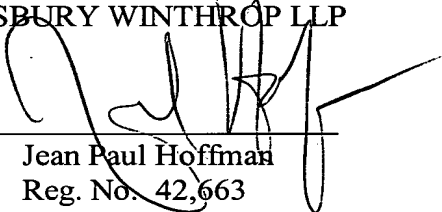
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is caption "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made** .

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter amended claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim [12] <u>11</u>, characterized in that the block

identifier is in a predetermined position in the block, and that the identifier of the second

block is formed by inverting the identifier of the first block.

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